

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02512 260116Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00
OCL-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MMO-01
/069 W

-----260118Z 116833 /66/43

O R 251225Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3655
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2512

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TEXT (SUMMARY)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ACOM, AEMR, ASEC, ET, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: A. STATE 092322, B. STATE 092279, C. ADDIS ABABA 2478

SUMMARY: MORNING, APR 25, CHARGE MET WITH ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO DISCUSS DETAILS FOR SMOOTH AND ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY, AND TO SEEK OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG) ACTIONS. MEETING OCCURRED AGAINST BACKDROP OF OUR CONTINUED INABILITY TO GAIN ACCESS TO USIS AND NAMRU (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL). WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT FUTURE OF U.S.-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, FONMIN REPONDED RECENT EPMG ACTIONS HAD "NOTHING TO DO WITH US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS" AND WOULD CONTINUE AT EMBASSY LEVEL. HE SAID US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS COULD BE DISCUSSED SOME OTHER TIME AND DID NOT GIVE SPECIFIC REASON FOR CLOSURES OF US INSTALLATIONS. CHARGE REITERATED NECESSITY FOR ACCESS TO USIS, NAMRU, AND KAGNEW INSTALLATIONS (SEE SEPTEL FOR CHANGE ON KAGNEW). CHARGE REQUESTED NO UNNECESSARY UNILATERAL ACTIONS BE TAKEN, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS THOSE INSTALLATIONS. CHARGE ONCE AGAIN REQUESTED ADDITIONAL TIME FOR WITHDRAWAL AND RECEIVED ASSURANCE SOMETHING COULD BE ARRANGED. FONMIN TOLD CHARGE REMOVAL ALL CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT AT INSTALLATIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED. FONMIN PROPOSED INFORMAL US-ETHIOPIAN JOINT COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY TO FACILITATE ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL AND TO PROVIDE DIRECT LIAISON WITH MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, HEALTH, FOREIGN

AFFAIRS, INFORMATION, AND FINANCE. CHARGE RESPONDED HE WOULD DESIGNATE US PERSONNEL AND WOULD AWAIT MOFA CALL AS TO TIME FOR FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT APR 25 MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN FONMIN, CHARGE RAISED QUESTION OF FUTURE US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AND SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR EPMG ACTIONS. FONMIN RESPONDED EPMG ACTIONS HAD "NOTHING TO DO WITH US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS" AND WOULD CONTINUE AT EMBASSY LEVEL. EPMG ACTIONS ONLY DIRECTED AGAINST AFFECTED INSTALLATIONS AND NOT USG PER SE. WHEN REQUESTED TO DISCUSS PRESS STATEMENTS AND GIVE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR CLOSURES, FONMIN RESPONDED THIS PERHAPS BETTER LEFT FOR ANOTHER TIME.

2. CHARGE EXPRESSED DESIRE, AND FONMIN CONCURRED, FOR ORDERLY AND SAFE WITHDRAWAL OF US PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY. CHARGE STATED, TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE US BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO ITS INSTALLATIONS. CHARGE REMINDED FONMIN THIS HAD NOT BEEN DONE AS YET. CHARGE INSISTED THAT NO UNILATERAL ACTIONS BE TAKEN BY EPMG AT US INSTALLATIONS CONTRARY TO USG DESIRES. CHARGE EMPHASIZED USIS EXTENSION OF US EMBASSY AND AS SUCH ENJOYED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. FONMIN AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO BUILDING.

3. CHARGE RAISED NUMBER OF ASMARA-RELATED DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD ARISEN PAST TWO DAYS. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN FOR KAGNEW CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS. CHARGE NOTED DENIAL OF ACCESS TO KAGNEW TRACT BRAVO AND REQUESTED IMMEDIATE ACCESS. FONMIN ASSURED CHARGE US CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE ABLE TO REMOVE ALL CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT AND DOCUMENTS FROM INSTALLATIONS (BUT SEE SEPTTEL). FONMIN SAID PMAC CHAIRMAN HAD GIVEN SPECIFIC ORDERS TO SAFEGUARD US CITIZENS AND THEIR PROPERTY.

4. TO THIS END, FONMIN PROPOSED INFORMAL US-ETHIOPIAN JOINT COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY. ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE, JOINT COMMISSION WOULD INCLUDE REPS FROM MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, HEALTH, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMATION, AND FINANCE WITH MOFA AMERICAN DESK AFFAIRS OFFICER, BERHANE DERESSA, CHAIRMAN. CHARGE RESPONDED HE WOULD DESIGNATE APPROPRIATE US PERSONNEL. FONMIN STATED JOINT COMMISSION WOULD COORDINATE WITH SUB-COMMISSION IN ASMARA AND LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY US PERSONNEL WOULD BE ABLE TO GO TO ASMARA IF NECESSARY. PURPOSE OF COMMISSION WOULD BE TO DECIDE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS AND WOULD EXIST ONLY AS LONG AS NECESSARY. FONMIN URGED CHARGE TO MAKE LIST OF US NEEDS AND REQUESTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY JOINT COMMISSION WHICH WE DOING NOW. ACTING POL COUNS FORMULATED AGENDA FOR POSSIBLE AFTERNOON MEETING SUBSEQUENTLY POST-

PONED, OF JOINT COMMISSION. CHARGE HAS DESIGNATED NAMRU DEPUTY DENNIS COLE, EMBASSY ADMIN OFFICER BYRON WALKER, MAAG OFFICER COL WILLIAM POSEY, USIS PAO ARTHUR LEWIS AS MEMBERS, AND ACTING POL COUNS RICHARD WILSON AS US CHAIRMAN. AMONG ISSUES TO BE DECIDED BY JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE TIME EXTENSION FOR ADMIN OFFICERS OF AFFECTED

INSTALLATIONS TO REMAIN AFTER OTHER PERSONNEL HAVE LEFT.

5. COMMENT: PROPOSAL OF JOINT COMMISSION APPEARS ON SURFACE AS WORKABLE SOLUTION FOR ATTENDANT ADMIN PROBLEMS OF AFFECTED US AGENCIES.

HOWEVER, IT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER COMMISSION WILL HAVE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT AGREED-UPON DECISIONS OR WHETHER IT WILL CON- VENE IN TIME TO BE HELPFUL BEFORE DEADLINE PASSES AND NAMRU, MAAG AND USIS MEMBERS OF COMMISSION MUST LEAVE. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR CONCRETE RESULTS. IN PRINCIPLE IT ENCOURAGING COMMISSION WILL PROVIDE DIRECT LIAISON WITH APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES AND WILL PROVIDE A VEHICLE
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FOR TIME EXTENSION.
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Message Attributes

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